



**DEEPENING IN PLANETARY SOLIDARITY
EXPLORING PEACE WORK AND HEALING**

The only thing I ask
from the Divine is not to
leave me indifferent to war.

Leon Giéco

DEAR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

From July 18th to August 15th 2015, 34 members of the Global Campus (GC) met in Tamera Healing Biotope in Portugal. It was an important meeting, a harvest of almost ten years of friendship and cooperation and an evolutionary leap of the GC. A network of peace projects around the world, the GC is dedicated to study peace knowledge and support the manifestation of local community models for regeneration and autonomy. Many of our past projects have been responses to the needs of each base station – peace pilgrimages to bring prayer and global awareness in crisis areas and experiential learning work sites for ecological restoration, alternative energy, and food production. This was our second big gathering with all base stations (previously in 2011) with the intention to deepen in our common study, evaluate and envision our collaboration and individual projects, explore new skills and live together in an intimate global community within a functioning living model. We also held the vision to take a next evolutionary step together and form a GC Council.

With people from diverse crises areas, we opened our hearts to the local and global challenges the projects, and humanity as a whole, are facing at this time. During the first week, we received news of new threats and challenges that arose for the Peace Community San Jose de Apartado in Colombia and soon after a heat wave hit Hakoritna Farm in Palestine. These situations challenged us become present with each other, think critically and creatively about solutions, and more deeply understand the speed and complexity of our global situation.

We also began to witness ourselves as a stable global community and realize our power - members and representatives could show where they stand as peaceworkers and group leaders, and what they have developed in their own projects. With their experience they have become teachers and advisors to each other, building trust through mutual sharings and expressions of support. In this atmosphere the crucial topics around community building and core values could be deeply addressed. Building on this strengthened core, we made steps toward expanding our work and eventually welcoming new members.

We all feel deeply nourished and encouraged. All this would not have been possible without the help of many donors worldwide and without the continuous support of the community of Tamera. This report is part of our 'thank you', and our continued journey of sharing the story with the world and including you, our crowd, in the evolution of the GC. We also welcome your feed-back and ideas.

Thank you to everyone! Thank you for the power of community.

The Global Campus Team

Vera Kleinhammes, Siri Gunnarson, Laure Luciani, Aida Shibli, Svanja Breithardt and Benjamin von Mendelssohn



GRATITUDE

We begin in Gratitude for the abundant support we received to make this gathering possible. During the months of preparation for this year's GC Gathering we refined our vision to call together the core members of the projects of the GC to converge to bring our network to its next evolutionary stage. To make it happen, with the support of the Grace Foundation we created a crowdfunding campaign with a new level of collaboration with the members of the GC.

Claudio Miranda from the Favela da Paz said: "Vision is very important. In the beginning it seemed impossible to think that we will be able to fund six members to travel to Europe. When we really envision being here and see us all together, sitting as a global community in a circle, the money no longer seems like an obstacle."

The resonance was great. It felt like a miracle - people from around the world, 327 friends and people who we never heard of before, supported us with donations ranging from 5 Euros to 10,000 Euros. We felt we received a clear "Yes" from the world. Thank you for the yes.

PEDAGOGY – OUR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING APPROACH

Our intention is to create an education that deepens our capacity to really support each other globally, meet challenges together, learn from each other and create models of local and global relevant alternatives. We have grown and developed our pedagogy through experiences of common study times and collaborative projects. This month gave us an opportunity to reflect on how we have grown, and begin to contextualize, evaluate and develop our pedagogy.

Our global group included two brothers from OTEPIC - Kenya, six members of Tierra Viva - Mexico, five from Palestine and two from Israel, six from the Favela de Paz - Brazil, four council members of the Peace Community San Jose de Apartado - Colombia, the biogas expert and urban planner T.H. Culhane from the US, the GC team in Tamera - Portugal plus other artists and supporters.

For one month we lived together, studied together and opened our hearts to perceive the opportunities and challenges we face as regional projects and as humanity at this time. It was an overwhelmingly rich time. We experienced what it means to deeply listen and open to people from another culture. We witnessed each others community power and spiritual strength, our values and dreams, and our suffering and urgent wishes for change.

LIVING IN THE SOLAR TESTFIELD AND OUR OWN DAILY RHYTHM

During our shared education times we experiment in adaptive cross-cultural community. This time we lived together in Tamera's Solar Testfield, - where 40 coworkers of Tamera live in a research and experiment in local autonomy. They eat what grows in Tamera and regionally (and free of violence), cook with energy provided by the sun and biogas systems of the Solar Kitchen, and develop the Testfield as a model and showcase for sustainable living for water and land management, food production, alternative energy, architecture - and community life.



We lived in a temporary tent village, the 'Aldeia Global'. We shared daily tasks of caring for the compost, biogas, and other community needs. We took turns cooking delicious and nutritious meals using the biogas digesters and the solar Scheffler mirror. In cooperation with natural technology, we were in contact with the weather and elements and our cooking teams adjusted in relation to the sun.

Our days incorporated theoretical and practical study and group time. Each morning we began with mindful service, working with the testfield team to develop the permaculture landscape, work in the processing kitchen and maintain the infrastructure and beauty of the place. Later in the morning we would have theoretical talks followed by an hour of choir together with the Terra Nova School, held by Tabea Mangelsdorf. Afternoons we used in different ways: case studies, small groups or meetings, and often forum or sharing – space for what was moving in the group. Often we came together with the Testfield group in a “Global Circle”, facilitated by Barbara Kovats: a place to share our questions, indignations and inspirations – and recognize their global nature.

INNER AND OUTER PEACE WORK

At the core of our peace work and educational philosophy is the belief the human being is central to the crisis we are facing on earth. We choose to work on both the most personal as well as the global, knowing that we are all part of life, and the systems the human being has created to suppress life are not separate than our own operating systems.

We saw that we cannot create peace around us as long as we are steered by patterns based in fear and pain. We have to learn to forgive and find the inner strength as people and communities that does not need outer enemies anymore. A power for life that is stronger than revenge. It was amazing to witness people who have lived in such inhumane conditions embody such humaneness and forgiveness.

Feel the pain, don't identify with it,
but try to be in service for the community.

Notes of a participant of the Peace Community

COMMUNITY BUILDING: CREATING A BASIS OF TRUST

In the context of this balance between inner and outer peace work, in the center of the education and research of the GC are questions about what it means to live in healthy relations. How to create community: How do we create social systems that create trust and mutual respect? Community is essential for sustainability: the technologies of the future will only be regenerative and sustainable as far as the human communities function. Again and again, in ecological, social and political movements, we witness groups fail based on interpersonal conflict and unresolved inner structures. Community can be a powerful vessel to become conscious of these mostly unconscious steering mechanisms.

The Global Campus is a group of people with pure souls and big hearts who are trying to change the world towards a better one, people who bring in their own experiences and lives with the many particular problems from their regions, and also many solutions!

Pikeno PSS, Favela da Paz, Brazil

WITNESSING THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL CRISIS

We come together as global circle to see how our issues – both those we classify as ‘personal’ as well as the situations and context of our local challenges and crisis – are indeed part of a global reality.

While we were meeting on the safe ground of Tamera, we witnessed the ongoing global crisis in the form of challenges and threats the different base stations are facing. During the first week the peace community San Jose de Apartado was threatened with losing a central piece of community land. One day tanks occupied the road in front of the village, pointing towards community. This has not happened in many years. In the second week, a heat wave hit the Middle East, impacting the Hakoritna Farm in Palestine beyond the constant pressure of occupation.

It was a time of learning to be humane beings again. We let the power of indignation rise within us. We felt the impact of the globalization of violence, ignorance and greed directly. While temperatures rise globally we felt the direct impact of human created ecological disaster. We listened to the too often unheard voices, a challenge to open the heart to really perceive the pain, fear and exhaustion... along with the hope, power and vision we also know from the same peace workers.

BEYOND LANGUAGE – COMING TOGETHER THROUGH MUSIC

Our month was a piece of art – coordinated translation teams provided four languages simultaneously: English, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. Many expressed the beauty and challenge of connecting without a common language. Music turned out to be the universal language. Sound, songs and dances connected us. Samba, Capoeira, Dabka and African Rap softened the edges, opened the hearts and made us feel as one.

Music, dance, spiritual practice, movement, theatre and connection to nature... these are a few of the many ways we honor the whole human being during our common time. During this gathering we had choir everyday, as well as songs from all the different regions, time to write, and many variations of morning practice. Rita Moreno and Laura von Raffay led us in Theatre a few times, leading us into energetic expression and the artistic side of political activism. Tabea and T.H. wrote a song for the GC, which we all learned and performed.

You can watch it visiting our blog: www.globalcampus.world

We hope to include more of this work in the future, knowing the full expression of the whole human being is essential for our inner and outer peace work, creating whole communities, and finding new images to inspire peace activism in the world.



CURRICULUM

COMMON STUDY TIME

POLITICS AND GLOBALIZATION

Knowledge is power. As peace workers today it is important to understand the current operating systems of politics and globalization, and to deeper understand the impact on local communities. During our first days we dove deeply into this subject with co-workers of the Institute for Global Peace Work (IGP) and the Grace Foundation, studying examples such as free trade agreements and the devastating injustice created through these economic models. We heard moving stories from people whose communities live with the direct impact of violent global structures and together envisioned a new power of positive globalization through the creation of a network of autonomous self-sufficient regional models.

INFORMATION

For two days we had lectures from Peace Journalist Leila Dregger on the connection between media and war, about constructive journalism and the power of information, and how we can use this powerful tool to connect to a global movement and spread knowledge and information for a positive transformation. In a writing workshop with the Tamera based journalist Leila Dregger we practiced the art of writing peace news from our local projects through writing to intriguing questions and prompts. A smaller group continued, meeting several more times to go further in the written word.

LOVE AND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

In these four days with Sabine Lichtenfels (cofounder of Tamera and initiator of the GC) and Benjamin von Mendelssohn (director of the Grace Foundation and initiator of the GC) we studied the powers of community, love, and Eros. It was the first Love School of the GC, and we entered with care, knowing the topic of love and community is very delicate, especially in a group with diverse cultural backgrounds. In her opening speech Sabine Lichtenfels made clear that it is not about imposing a system of values. She said “War comes from world views, peace comes through contact.” All of the participants used the spaces to share about their inner movements, family histories, and cultural contexts and challenges. We were shaken by the expression of pain and violence – the war between the genders – that is present in so many communities in the world. We elaborated on social structures and ethical guidelines that we need, regardless in which culture we live in.

*True love carries in it the secret of non-violence.
For a culture of peace we need a balance between men and women.
From the notebook of a participant from the Peace Community in Colombia.*

One of the most relevant themes during this time was women’s empowerment. Many of the female participants work with women at home and have become real trust figures and radical healers for their communities. We saw the beauty of the woman finding her voice, most noticeable in the women from Colombia who grew as speakers and leaders.

My wish is to show the women that we can take on an important role in our community. Women have a lot of knowledge, but often we are afraid to speak publicly. I want to help to change this in my community.

Rubi Arteaga from the council of the Peace Community in Colombia.

ECOLOGY

In the week of ecology we learnt that energy, water and food are freely available when we learn to cooperate with nature. Apart from the theoretical lectures from Bernd Müller, we listened to detailed presentations of the different base stations. Each project received a consultation from the present experts, trying to improve the situation of water, food, housing, or energy. We also worked practically to improve our skills in different areas: Some of us dug swales for Water Harvesting with the solar village team from Tamera. Others who already had built Biogas Digesters for cooking worked with T.H. Culhane from the US and explored how they can be improved, especially the storage of the gas and the smell abnormality. Another group learnt to collect and process regional seeds with Rita Moreno from Tamera, to garden our own tobacco and vegetables. Bee Bowen from the UK gave a theoretical and practical workshop to use ancient and still very effective methods of lime stabilized, water proof and earthquake safe clay building. For one week, Juergen Kleinwaechter from Germany taught some participants about his innovative solar invention for the future: the Solar Sun Pulse 500.

Animals collaborate with us in improving the eco-systems if we collaborate with them.

From the notebook of a participant from the Peace Community in Colombia.

ECONOMY

With the guidance of Benjamin von Mendelssohn, and the Grace foundation, we went further in our research of economy: How do we fund our projects? How do we create a fair and sustainable economy in our community? Benjamin gave an overview of the laws of the current economy based on war and exploitation and we explored the future of an economy based on service for life with abundance at its core.

*If you do a good thing you attract good. Money is energy.
When used for good, only good things can happen.*

Fabio Miranda, from Favela da Paz in Brazil

LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY BUILDING

We have seen the projects and leaders grow immensely over the past ten years, and we also identify 'capacity building' as one of the gifts and needs of the GC network. It is amazing to see the growth of the individuals and the projects, how leaders have developed themselves and their skills, such as biogas digester creation and implementation. During this gathering the members really dared to be teachers and advisors for each other, mutually benefitting from their experience. We witnessed the project leaders speaking powerfully, giving each other honest feedback and advice, including constructive criticism. We saw that living in crisis regions and actively manifesting alternative models turns people into experts. This felt like a leap in the evolution of the GC, the emergence of a circle of global 'opposites' or partners – facing unique situations with common themes – the challenges of our times. The strength of the circle gave all of us the chance to step out of resignation and powerlessness, and to step into hope in the possibility of change.

Our intention for this time was to take a next step towards shared leadership and responsibility for the GC. During our final week we explored our vision, began to plan our next gathering, discussed our common ethical guidelines, and formed a council of carriers. One or two project leaders from each group stepped in to steward the GC, a first step to decentralize the leadership and communication. Now, rather than the coordination team in Tamera holding the vision, manifestation, and communication with the base stations, we will have monthly calls where the movements and needs of each project, as well as the vision and decision for the whole, will be discussed. *See section on 'Next Steps' to learn more.*

THE BASE STATIONS

Photo: Irma Knittel



PEACE COMMUNITY SAN JOSE DE APARTADO COLOMBIA

In 1997, more than 1000 refugee farmers declared themselves neutral in the conflict between guerilla, army and paramilitary forces in their region. They formed a community with the guideline of non-violence. In the following years, more than 200 members of the Peace Community were killed in brutal disputes over land and resources. Since 2005, the Peace Community has been a close friend and partner of Tamera and the GC. Four council members, Rubi, Sirly, Gildardo and German, came to take part in this GC gathering. In our first days together we received the message that neighboring stakeholders linked with armed forces were claiming a central and important piece of land to build a disco open to armed actors directly on the site of this model village and ecological center, which is a historically important site of the growing peace village. We decided to write a letter to that group showing our support to the vision of the peace community and offering a perspective of how they can participate in that vision.

Two days later another challenge emerged: two army tanks were threatening the main village San Josecito, triggered by a student march in the nearest village manifesting against the local military base. We immediately activated our network and reached out to the Colombian government and army to stop this direct life threat. With these unexpected situations to attend, the two Colombian men with responsible positions in the Council were called back home by their companions. The two women, Rubi and Sirly, stayed to use the GC time to grow as leaders for their community. They studied and participated actively, starting to reveal their power as public speakers and deepening their political and ecological education.

I feel home here. For me to join the Peace Community was already extending my family, and now with the Global Campus I feel my family is turning even bigger! Sirly Cerpa

In addition to the economic pressure, false information, and criminalization of community leaders, the Peace Community is facing challenges such as food autonomy, the integration and education of new members and leaders, and the call to partner with networks of mutual support such as GEN.

www.cdpsanjose.org



HAKORITNA FARM

PALESTINE

Since 2000, Tamera has been involved in the Middle East, with peace pilgrimages, educational events and, most currently, ecological consultations.

In the frame of creating a Peace Research Village in the Middle-East (PRV-ME) - a vision that show case the possibility that people from Israel, Palestine and Internationals can learn to live in peace again, the group has split into two teams, each one working in their community, the group in Israel went through an intensive community building experience that lead the group to take a new education time in Tamera. In Palestine there is a growing network of ecological and community projects. The GCP aims to give birth to an ecological community in the Middle East.

Hakoritna Farm is one of these projects in Tulkarem in the West bank, owned by Fayeze Taneeb. The farm sits on a highly polluted piece of land wedged between the Occupation Wall and several chemical factories. Empowered by the GC since 2013, Fayeze and his wife Mona have turned their farm into an education center for sustainable living.

Fayeze joined us during the GC Gathering and we received the news that an unexpected heat wave struck the whole region. In the weeks of the GC, Fayeze understood the depths of the challenges he faces in addition to the omnipresent Israeli occupation: polluted earth, a wall that does not only stop water from flowing off the land in winter but also makes it impossible for farmers to sell their products.

I stand for the right of every human being to live on their land and be nourished by it.
There is no way we will stop our efforts. One day, there will be a solution. **Fayeze Taneeb**

This November the GCP team is hosting a training for sustainability in Farkha, a traditional village that intends to become an ecovillage. Aida Shibli, coordinator and founder of GCP, proposed a GC education time in Palestine in 2020 to gather the participants of the GC in the Holy Land.

www.globalcampuspalestine.weebly.com



FAVELADA PAZ BRASIL

The UN has listed the favela Jardim Angela in Sao Paulo as one of the most violent places on earth. Drug trafficking, violence, police raids, and homeless children, have become an everyday plague. This is the place where the brothers Claudio and Fabio Miranda grew up. Early in their lives they discovered music as a tool to connect people, open hearts, and give children an alternative to violence and drugs. Today they, their family, and their band “Poesia Samba Soul”, run a large music studio. With the help of the GC, they made their house an environmental education center.

This year, they came with six band members to the GC Gathering, eager to play music, to learn, and share about many things.

The next aim of their group is to build a Community Center. Hellem, Claudio’s wife, has started a course for vegetarian cooking, bringing together many women who see her as role model, also on topics like community building and love. In a Community Center she will have a much larger impact. The Community Center will be a place where local residents come together and regain the power of choice on their basic needs.

We don’t really plan in our culture. We envision the project and we trust that everything that we need will come, and most of the times the money comes. **Claudio Miranda**

And so it was: During their stay they received the message that a friend bought a piece of land adjacent to their own plot. Together the two sites will be big enough to start the Community Center.

www.faveladapaz.wordpress.com



We are part of a change that started a long time ago. It did not start with my father. When we are clear about what we are, born to serve and make a change, then everything becomes easy.

Claudio Miranda



Photos: Poesia Samba Soul

In the middle of the Gathering they were invited for five days to Bethlehem to play at a music festival. It was their first time to visit Palestine. Claudio: *“It was an immense shift in our minds to come from Tamera and into the special situation of the Westbank. Even in the Favela people had been in fear for us visiting such a dangerous place. But our main feeling when we entered a refugee camp was: this is home. Everything reminded us to our Favela: the tightness, the tension, the way to build one house above the other, and also the joyful smiles in the faces of children. We understood that this similarity is not a coincidence: just like us in a Favela, the inhabitants of a refugee camp are excluded from the society, and put behind a wall. While in Palestine the walls are real, the walls in our society are walls of the hearts, made from fear.”*

The group took a letter from the GC for Mona, the wife of Fayez Taneeb, encouraging her in the stressed situation of the drought.



Otepik KENYA

In the challenging situation of Mitume, a township in Kitale, Western Kenya, in 2009 Philip Munyasia started a community based organization to empower youth, women and farmers to be able to grow their own food in small spaces, to use renewable energy instead of firewood, harvest rainwater and come together in communities. He has taught more than 2000 people in techniques of sustainability. Since Philip's first visit in 2011, OTEPIC has become a partner of Tamera and a member of the GC.

With the support of a growing network of friends and donors, OTEPIC was able to purchase a 10-hectare piece of land. In 2013, a team of the GC and international experts went there to support the first steps of planning, building the first house (with Earth bag Building) and the first water retention space. Meanwhile, four more traditional buildings were established, involving the neighboring community. They planted some hundreds of trees and created a borehole which feeds the whole neighborhood with drinking water – a real asset in this desertified area. The next aim for Philip and his team is to build a Conference Center to host an International School for Permaculture for East Africa.

If you want to reach out to a village, you have to reach the women.

Philip Munyasia

Philip and Patrick Munyasia came to the GC meeting with the wish to learn how to strengthen the field of trust and community in the team and with the environment. "Colonialism and globalization have stripped us from the tradition of mutual support and social cohesion. We have to learn it anew. The key for this is the empowerment of women."

Patrick worked mainly with TH Culhane to develop further and improve the different biogas digesters for cooking as a mean to reduce the use of firewood. Patrick has been building biogas digesters in Kenya in the last three years.

www.otepic.org



INLA KESH

MEXICO

Torreon is a Mexican city with immense violence, street children, and drug abuse. In this town, a group of people had worked for several years with street children, trying to improve their situation. More and more they understood that helping individuals won't change the system of violence. After their contact with Tamera they decided to create a peace model to show that another life is possible. They started to build an international community in Chiapas among indigenous tribes, trying to integrate without imposing. They are working the land, regenerating the water situation. It is still a small group of mainly women who form the community. They came to GC Gathering, with their close supporters, mainly to learn community skills, to understand how to form a community of committed people, to solve conflicts, to establish leadership, to take decisions as a group, and to give each other feedback in a deep and trustful, true way.

As an example, they shared about the gentle and dedicated way they work with difficult situations: As they were still living in the middle of drug trafficking and violence in Torreon, drug dealers were often doing their business in an abandoned corner in front of their site. For some time they considered how to move them away. They decided to use the power of beauty: they focused on that corner, cleaned it up, erected a sculpture of the Madonna, went there every day for meditation and invited neighbors for a celebration. Meanwhile the place has completely changed, people come there to meet and pray, and the drug dealers respected it and found a different place.

During the four weeks of the gathering, the five women understood that all of them are potential leaders and have to learn to support each other. They met each morning and evening in the Herbal House, shared, and studied and had a time back to the essence, being supported by some women of Tamera. For the rest of the GC group, the women's presence was highly important, as they supported the two young women from Colombia, and they supported each participant with feedback from their political hearts, their feminine sources of wisdom, and their experience.

Their next challenges include re-balancing the manifestation/vision work, clarifying leadership, weaving together key partnerships in the region, caring for their core identity, and inviting more people to join this enterprise, of building a healing biotope in Chiapas.



Photo: T H Culhane



BLUEPRINT INITIATIVE

Blueprint regularly gathers experts in permaculture, solar and biogas energy, natural building, and water harvesting, who want to offer their skills in crisis areas. The Blueprint Initiative meeting in the Solar Testfield created beautiful synergies with the GC Gathering. Ruth Andrade from Brazil, who initiated Blueprint, explains its essence:

“In the next 5 to 10 years the number of humanitarian crises is going to increase. The idea of Blueprint is to create task forces of individuals who can bring their expertise together and give an integrative response. We learn how we can use a crisis even as an opportunity to also regenerate the water and the food systems and regenerate the landscape. The support we offer is connected to living showcases and educational sites. We don't offer stand-alone solutions but rather a co-creative system that integrates whatever is best for a region.”

In gathering experts for the Blueprint initiative, Ruth followed the dream of her late husband Paulo Mellett. After three Meetings, Paulo's power of integration is still felt in all activities. For example; natural builder Bee Bowen (<http://www.strawbuild.org>) worked with biogas expert T.H. Culhane (<http://solarcities.eu>) on a new kind of insulation, made from natural materials, for biogas digesters to be more sustainable in northern winter climates. Juergen Kleinwaechter and his team from SunOrbit gave a seminar about the latest development of low-temperature Stirling engines. The participants of the GC had some contact with the Blueprint meeting, receiving consultations, working together, exploring the possibilities of using their expertise in their own locations, and even becoming teachers.

TERRA NOVA SCHOOL

Parallel to the GC Gathering, another international group met in Tamera: 70 members and activists of the Terra Nova School (TNS). Groups and participants came from all over the world. Together with the GC, more than 30 countries gathered to study the plan of the healing biotopes and learn what it means to create community. In 2013 the TNS established an online study program to support activist groups with information and 'study packets' about alternatives and solutions. The GC and the TNS took part in a daily study and choir together, as well as a moving 'Global Circle,' and a writing workshop. In the cultural center there were evenings dedicated to one region or country of the world, highlighting the work that is being done to create alternatives – including concerts, dance evenings and meditations. The four weeks were a very powerful political summer in Tamera. Two of the projects taking part in the Terra Nova summer applied to become members of the GC:

THE DANCING FOREST, NATOUN, TOGO

www.thedancingforest.com

More than 30 years ago, Tiyeda Abalah and her husband Séda started a successful initiative to revitalize villages, empower women and regenerate the landscape of rural Togo with reforestation, natural water management and organic farming. Since 2009 their Ecovillage Natoun has become an urgently relevant example of dignified rural living amidst the rural exodus that brings 17 million Africans across the continent into urban slums each year. The project consists of two parts, a school and an ecovillage, and is growing in vision and size each year. After having visited Tamera in 2013, Patrick Bayamna and Tiyeda created a water retention landscape as a model for a sustainable landscape design. Now they came back together with Salim Bah Dara from Benin, their longterm consultant, a professor of organic farming, and a “King” of a region of 75.000 people.

SKALA ECOVILLAGE, GREECE

www.skalaecovillage.com

After the world's economic crisis in 2008, the countries of Southern Europe have been pressed with austerity measures that immensely affected their economies, their jobs, their social security, and their feeling of trust and safety. Greece was one of the first countries hit by this unjust economic system, which continues to make rich countries richer and poor countries poorer. Skala Ecovillage, 40 minutes from Thessaloniki, is a small group of people committed to build a model for regional food and energy sovereignty and social resilience. Its founders Nikiforos and Anna Fillipou have been longtime friends of Tamera. After their visit to the GEN Summit, and Nikiforos' participation in the Terra Nova Summer, they hosted a network meeting in Skala for many grassroots initiatives in Greece, followed by a seminar in sustainable technologies. Blueprint, GEN, and Tamera supported them to develop into a regional education center for sustainability. They sent different experts to teach ecological techniques, plan a water retention landscape and build a Biogas digester.



Photo: Leilla Dregger

GEN - GLOBAL ECOVILLAGE NETWORK

GEN was founded 20 years ago. Today it connects 10,000 villages around the world: intentional communities, villages in transition and urban initiatives that want to apply the principles of sustainability in the four dimensions: the ecological, the economic, the social, and the cultural. GEN International has become a platform for collaboration and exchange, for initiatives of the Global South and North, working together on practical solutions and knowledge transfer, healing the wounds of colonialism, building a better life, and taking responsibility for the earth.

Several Members of the GC, including some from the coordination team, joined the Global Ecovillage Network Gathering in Findhorn, Scotland, from July 6 - 10th. GEN celebrated its 20th anniversary. With the organization's founders present, 250 participants shared their work and elaborated new strategies for the ecovillage movement. One of these strategies is the cooperation of specialists in emergency situations around the planet, joining forces and using their experience to support people in areas of crisis, for disaster relief and refugee camps. Many important connections were made during the conference.

With so many similar lines, during the GEN Gathering, GC became an official partner of GEN. This means that the two organization's will collaborate more intensively, create common strategies and projects, and support each other's meetings with outreach.

www.gen.ecovillage.org



ECOVILLAGE - 1001 WAYS TO HEAL THE PLANET

The new GEN book, edited by Kosha Joubert and Leila Dregger, tells stories of the joys and challenges of creating communities and ecovillages. Among the 30 stories, there are those of five members of the GC: San José de Apartado, Favela da Paz, OTEPIC, Hakoritna Farm, and Tamera. Don't miss the chance to order it.

English: <http://triarchypress.net/ecovillage.html>

German: <http://shop.neueerde.de/Neuerscheinungen/OEkodoerfer-weltweit.html>



EVALUATION

CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

Overall, the 2015 educational gathering of the GC was a huge success.

The greatest indicator of success is the strength of the people; their growth, leadership, and ability to use the time for themselves and the development of their projects. All participants contributed in their own way, and had unique paths in researching on their questions. The ability to speak, listen and mirror, give and receive feedback and advice, indicates a high functioning group that can listen for what serves on a global community level. In the future we hope to share leadership in a more profound way, and ask the base station leaders to share in facilitation and planning. This began already, with Philip and Siri leading a session together, Tabea leading the choir, and Ismail teaching yoga classes.

Living together in the Solar Village was an experiment in community, and living with technology... and it worked! We were able to contribute to the running of the Testfield while studying, and we were able to see each other in a beautiful way. The Testfield came closer to the manifestation of its vision, to be a global educational model. The GC lived together and learned from this intimate group, going for a very radical, regional sustainability.

While we supported the maintenance of the Solar Village, we also used our common work time to build and research the technologies that are relevant for the group. One example of this is the small team of T.H. Culhane (Biogas expert from the US) and Patrick Munyasia (from Kenya) who worked together with the Blueprint project and the Testfield to create lime plaster insulation for biogas digesters to be more sustainable in northern winter climates.

Many small 'self organized' learning projects happened on the side – Philip Munyasia got assistance to create a new brochure for his project; Patrick and Fayez accompanied the biogas for the whole month; the group from Mexico asked for training in the social tool 'the way of council'.

Our days were very full, and around week three we had some feedback that it was too much content and long days. In future gatherings we will look to create more 'integration' spaces during long gatherings, and integrate more complimentary modalities, such as movement practice, theater, music, and art, to help process the serious issues we touch in different ways.

Often in the group, when we asked about challenges, we respond that one big challenge was language. It was challenging to coordinate translation into four languages, challenging to speak in our circle with so much simultaneous translation, and challenging for old and new friends to exchange deeply outside of our meetings. We found many ways to communicate, and in the future we hope for better technology (headsets) to support clearer communication.



NEXT STEPS OF THE GLOBAL CAMPUS

On the first day of our gathering, a German woman and an Israeli man gave birth in Tamera to a new being named Lua. This is a symbol for this gathering, which marks the start of a new phase of our project together. During the four weeks the participants elaborated ideas, about how the GC can create a solid foundation for maintaining the trust and the depths of the collaboration, and at the same time integrate new members. The first step was to elect a GC Council. At every base station there will be at least one committed person, and a replacement person. Once a month they shall meet in a skype conference to share about the development in the different projects, decide if immediate actions or support is needed, make decisions together about the next steps of education, and open to include new base-stations. The elected council members are: Philip Munyasia, Fayez Taneeb, Aida Shibli, Vera Kleinhammes, Claudio Miranda, Monika Hosterey/Rosa Belia Sanchez, Rocio Reyes, and one member to be decided from the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado.

Above that they will offer training in “Capacity Building,” which means to invite each other to relevant seminars. In these seminars different members will be the teachers and share their skills. The next meeting for everyone is planned for 2016, probably at one of the base stations... Keep in touch! And follow us on [facebook](#). Here is an overview of the members of the GC who participated in this year gathering:

	Name	Gender	Country		Name	Gender	Country
1	Philip Munyasia	M	Kenya	18	Rosa Belia Sanchez Ochoa	W	Mexico
2	Patrick Munyasia	M	Kenya	19	Fayez Taneeb	M	Israel-Palestine
3	Claudio Miranda	M	Brazil	20	Ismail Asaad	M	Israel-Palestine
4	Hellem Coelho	W	Brazil	21	Enas Jalil	W	Israel-Palestine
5	Fabio Miranda	M	Brazil	22	Akiva Azriel	M	Israel-Palestine
6	Pequeno Pss	M	Brazil	23	Nuno Moreno	M	Portugal
7	Paulinho Torres	M	Brazil	24	Tabea Mangelsdorf	W	Germany
8	Rafael Barbosa	M	Brazil	25	Mena Vieira	W	Portugal
9	Rocio Reyes	W	Mexico	26	Dror Zohar	M	Israel-Palestine
10	Maria Jezabel Pastor	W	Spain	27	TH Culhane	M	US
11	Fabian Mauermann	M	Germany	28	Ethan Hirsch-Tauber	M	US
12	Sofia Olhovich	W	Mexico	29	Vera Kleinhammes	W	Germany/Portugal
13	Monika Hösterey	W	Germany	30	Siri Gunnarson	W	US
14	Rubi Arteaga	W	Colombia	31	Laure Luciani	W	France
15	Gildardo Tuberquia	M	Colombia	32	Svanja Breithardt	W	Germany/Portugal
16	Sirly Cerpa	W	Colombia	33	Aida Shibli	W	Israel-Palestine
17	German Graciano	M	Colombia	34	Benjamin von Mendelssohn	M	Germany/Portugal



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR A SUSTAINABLE NETWORK

Without you - hundreds of dedicated individuals and organizations who support us with their time, energy and financial contributions our peace work would not be possible.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Global Campus.

WHO FUNDS THE GLOBAL CAMPUS?

Throughout its history, the project was funded mainly through the generosity of mainly European individual donors. The fundraising was coordinated and carried out by the GC team in Tamera without significant involvement of the base-stations. This model functioned to some extent, but our last projects left us with a deficit that Tamera had to cover.

This year, together with [the Grace Foundation](#), we approached fundraising differently, with the intention to share responsibility with the other base-stations and a wider global community. We see the significance of money in the healing between the Global North and South, and our intention is to find new forms of cooperation. Through studying economy –studying the current system behind our culture of destruction, as well as sharing our research in the ‘humanization of money’ – we came to a new level of trust, easing tension and permitting greater transparency. Our practical focus was to make the GC and the base-stations themselves more sustainable.

Although our coordination team, together with the Grace Foundation, held much of the responsibility for the crowdfunding, it was successful because everyone participated – mainly through artistic contributions and social media. Every base station also gifted ‘perks’ offered to the donors. During the campaign there was a feeling of global solidarity and excitement from within our network, which was met by a global wave of support.

Through two months of preparation and crowdfunding research, we created a wider interface to receive the world’s feedback to our work. And it was a success!

VISION AND STRATEGY OF FUNDING OF THE GLOBAL CAMPUS

The biggest outcome of our financial time was a decision to share responsibility for funding future events. In the coming time the GC Council will create and implement a strategy. This widening of responsibility will open new avenues for funding; a local project will receive more direct protection and support from their own regions, when their project becomes visible as a global actor and attractor for internationals. Members of the base stations learn through doing, and this education in finance, media, and fundraising, will directly assist their projects.

Some of the members contributed financially to the event by funding their own participation. The amount that they paid is not represented in the figures shown here and still we want to acknowledge their effort, and their sharing the responsibility for financing this event. The total sum of their visa, transport, food & lodging costs comes to approximately €14600.

HOW WE SPENT THE GIFTS?

Due to unexpected expensive flight tickets and some participants needing more support in fundraising for their flight tickets, the budget of this project rose 12% from €58.000 to €65.000. One expected participant from Kenya couldn’t join because his visa to travel to Europe was denied.

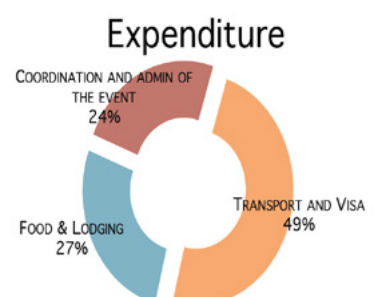




Photo: Svanja Brewardt

THANK YOU

DEAR GLOBAL COMMUNITY,

We send our sincere gratitude to all of you who made our meeting possible by responding on our crowdfunding campaign so generously. We thank the Grace Foundation for their accompaniment, and for having facilitated the financial operations of this project. There were numerous small and larger donations by some hundreds people. It was not only the money. It was even more the warm feeling of so many people standing behind us that empowered us. For this we thank:

Adonis Stellas
Andreas Duda
Anna Haker
Anna Gamma
Ariane Lopes Mates
Birger Bumb
Brigitte Chedler
Candis Carpenter
Chet Manchester
Christine Fischer
Chryssa Sotiraki
Cornelia Scheidel
David Confino & Sally Bourne
Deborah Anapol
Detox Academy Amsterdam
Dieter Duhm
Doris Kupke
Felix & Elke Woschek
Frederick Weihe
Fredy Kradolfer
Gerhard Roessler
Geoff O'Donoghue
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Ian MacKenzie
Jannis Elsaesser
Jena Silverman
John Wolfstone
Jozo Novak
Karo Akabal
Kastor Stein
Klaus & Esther Dettwyler
Laure Luciani
Laurie McMillan
Lee Ziv
Leila Dregger
Luea Ritter
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Mahmoud Masri
Manuel Nachtrub
Martin Funk
Martin Pietsch
Michael Karner
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Nikolaus Brantschen
Nimrod Harel

Noa Bechtler
Ocean Robbins
Oscar Kary
Peter Saladin
Peter Lewerenz
Petra Lochmann
Rex Brangwyn
Rock River
Saad Dagher
Sabine Lichtenfels
Sabine Madou
Sabine Simon
Sarah Vollmer
Silvia Volgger
Simon Linssen
Tabea Mangelsdorf
The Temple of Knowledge
Tamera Community
The W-Project in Berlin
Uli Jung
Ulrike Muench
Ulrike Krampen & Uli Stempel
Yolaine de Brichambaut



Opening ceremony in the Stone Circle



Photo: Laure Luciani

Sharing songs together as a way of contact beyond language



Monika producing pottery. The products were sold to generate income to the Global Campus Gathering



Finding a new global family: Claudio and Mante



Photo: Irma Knittel

Global Circle and forum work with Barbara Kovats



Photo: Irma Khittel

Fayez prepared breakfast every morning for everybody



The Mexican Group presenting their project and receiving consultation from Tamera experts



Photo: Svanja Breithardt

Building Swales in the Testfield and learning about rain water harvesting



T H Culhane and Patrick Munyasia improving a new biogas digester in the Testfield



Meals at the Solar Village



Sharing in our forum work



Representatives of every base station presented in the Youth Camp that took place in Tamera at the same time



Craft market with local products from the base-stations



Staying connected to our own projects during this time



Consultation in Ecology with Bernd Mueller



Ethiopian participants of the Terra Nova School sing together with Poesia Samba Soul



Poesia Samba Soul and Philip Munyasia



Choir rehearsal with Tabea Mangelsdorf



The Global Campus Team



Benjamin, Mante and Vera



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globalcampus@tamera.org
facebook: [theglobalcampus](https://www.facebook.com/theglobalcampus)

www.globalcampus.world

Bank Information, to transfer your gift in Euros:

Ref: Global Campus • Bank: Caixa Credito Agricola S. Teotonio
Account Holder: Grace - Stiftung zur Humanisierung des Geldes • Account No: 40217203565
BIC: CCCMPTPL • IBAN: PT50 0045 6332 40 2172 035 65 11

Bank Information, to transfer your gift in CHF:

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Humanisierung des Geldes, Zurich • Account No: 92188.56 • BIC: RAIFCH22
IBAN: CH618148700009218856 • Clearing: 81487 • The Bank's PC Account: 87-71996-7

Donation receipts can be issued to Swiss citizens.

Please contact Cornelia Scheidl: cornelia.scheidl@tamera.org

All uncredited photos by: Rafael Barbosa da Silva, Poesia Samba Soul
Edition and Lay-out: the Global Campus team and supporters

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and a project initiated by **Tamera**, Portugal

www.tamera.org

